



# Kidney Q&A

0-3 months

Life Options Rehabilitation Program

414 D'Onofrio Drive, Ste. 200

Madison, WI 53719

[www.lifeoptions.org](http://www.lifeoptions.org)

## Q: What happens to me if I can't do the same job any more?

**A:** Some jobs may demand more than your health allows—but this doesn't mean you can't work. Working is good for you, for your family, for your dialysis center, and for the government. Because the U.S. government decided kidney failure can be disabling, you can get free help from a vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselor to:

- Go to school to learn a new skill
- Get job training to do a different job
- Find a job

If you can't work full-time while you're in training, you may be able to get disability benefits from Social Security. Your social worker can help you look at your options.

### What *I* can do to go back to work:

- Decide what type of job I want and what I would need to do it. Find out about different jobs on the Internet at <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>.
- Talk with my social worker about my goals for working.
- Ask my social worker for the VR phone number and call for an appointment.
- Look on the Internet or at the library for training programs for jobs I'd like to do.

- Call Social Security (800-772-1213) to ask about disability benefits and work incentive programs. Ask for booklets to read.
- Read the booklet, *Employment: A Kidney Patient's Guide to Working and Paying for Treatment* from Life Options ([www.lifeoptions.org](http://www.lifeoptions.org)).